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EDITORIAL

THE ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The organization of a new geological survey is always an occasion for congratulations both to the profession at large and to the state which takes up the work. Illinois is the last to assume the burdens and to reach out for the benefits to be derived from such work, and in many particulars the opportunities in this great central state are unique. The present organization is not the first survey which the state has had. In 1857 \$3,000 was appropriated for the making of a complete geological survey of the state—a rather small appropriation for so ambitious a program. The next succeeding assembly, recognizing the inadequacy of the funds, appropriated \$5,000 annually for geology and \$500 annually for topography, and these appropriations continued till 1872, when the new state constitution prohibiting all continuing appropriations went into effect. At that time \$2,000 was appropriated for the expenses of the survey for one year, and in 1873 \$7,200 for the succeeding biennial term, with a special appropriation of \$1,500 for illustrating Volume VI. The Twenty-fifth General Assembly made a special appropriation of \$20,000 for the work, and when the survey was abandoned, funds amounting to \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year were provided for the maintenance of the succeeding State Museum of Natural History.

The first state geologist, Dr. J. G. Norwood, was appointed in 1851 and served six years. The only published result of his work was a study of the lead and fluor-spar mines near Rosiclare, found in Volume I of the survey reports. His successor, Dr. A. H. Worthen, was appointed March 22, 1858, and served until his death in 1888. His name is the one most closely associated with Illinois geology, since he directed and carried out the work of thirty years, resulting in the publication of the eight well-known volumes relating to the geology of the state. The last of these was published after his death by his successor in the curatorship, Dr. Joshua Lindahl, by courtesy state geologist. Dr. Worthen associated with himself, in the early

years of the survey, such well-known men as J. D. Whitney, Henry Englemann, Leo Lesquereaux, F. B. Meek, and J. S. Newberry, and while the personnel of the corps changed somewhat in the course of years, the roll included always well-known and honorable names.

The work of the Worthen survey was largely directed to a study of the general geology and paleontology of the state, and was carried out by counties, the entire state being covered. It resulted in a general geologic map, on the scale of six miles to the inch, and, in addition to the county reports, individual papers on the various formations and groups of fossils. There were, however, no economic reports, as that term is now understood, and when the legislature directly ordered a report on the economic geology of the state, the law was nominally complied with by making a scissors-and-paste compilation from the general volumes and publishing separately three small octavos. In those days the close relations of geology to industry and to technology were not so well understood as now, and geologists considered work on paleontology and pure science more in keeping with the dignity of their profession. The older survey none the less laid broad and deep foundations for future work and very greatly stimulated the development of the mineral resources of the state. When it was discontinued—and field-work seems to have practically stopped in 1872—the curator of the museum took up the work of a bureau of information, and, despite the fact that that office soon became part of the political spoils of the state, this work at least was well done.

Feeling the need of a modern re-study of the state, and particularly the completion of the economic work left by the older organization, the last General Assembly appropriated \$25,000 annually for the field-work during the biennial term, and provided for a further draft of \$5,000 a year on the printing funds of the state, if necessary. The credit for this move belongs largely and directly to Governor C. S. Deneen who, when the matter was brought to his attention, saw at once its importance and devoted himself to bringing the matter about. The co-operation of many others was of course very important, but the active interest of the state administration was essential, and is significant of the new creed that the best government is the best politics, and that reform means as much doing new things as correcting old abuses; it must be dynamic, not static.

Of the funds of the new survey \$10,000 per year is by agreement allotted to topographic mapping in co-operation with the United States Geological Survey, which duplicates this allotment. The remainder is devoted entirely to geology, since Illinois provides separately for the study of its soils, water, natural history, and for engineering experiments. In order to promote close co-operation with these various surveys, the director of the State Geological Survey has his office at Urbana at the university, though the control of the organization is vested in an independent commission. This consists of the governor and the president of the State University *ex officio* and, by appointment, Professor Chamberlin of Chicago. In September this commission met and elected as director Dr. H. Foster Bain, of the United States Geological Survey and formerly, as was true of Dr. Worthen, assistant state geologist of Iowa. The remainder of the corps has not yet been announced, except that it is understood that Professor C. W. Rolfe, who is in charge of the department of ceramics at the State University, is also to be in immediate charge of the investigation of the clay resources. Field-work on this has already been begun by Mr. Ross C. Purdy, lately connected with Dr. Edward Orton in his investigation of Ohio clays.

It is understood that for the present the work of the new survey will be centered mainly on the study of coal and clay, but that the broader problems of the geology of the state are to be re-investigated in the light of the advances made in general knowledge and theory in the quarter of a century which has elapsed since the old survey ceased work. In this work, and in its general activities, geologists both in America and elsewhere extend to the new organization best wishes, and to the state of Illinois congratulations upon having provided the means for such work.

R. D. S.